

Incident Report Concerning Roped Foal on August 16, 2012

***The mouth or entrance to the wings of the trap was about 495 feet or about 165 yards across.*

- The foal was unable to follow the rest of the group into the trap and was roped some distance away from the trap. As the contractor was approaching the wings while walking the foal to the trap two groups of horses were approaching the trap, so the contractor tied down the foal approximately 95 feet away from the entrance to the wings.
- The contractor tied the foal to create a safe situation for the foal, since he was alerted that two more groups of horses were close behind and there was not enough time to move the foal out of the way in its weakened state.
- The foal was tied down on the left side of the trap, approximately 95 feet outside the entrance of the wings.
- The domestic guide horses were situated on the other side (right side) of the trap from the foal and led both groups of horses into the trap on the right side, approximately 275 feet away from the foal that was tied down.
- When the contractor untied the foal after 27 minutes, it immediately stood up and was led approximately 100 feet to a trailer and loaded without incident. The video clip posted on YouTube at <http://youtu.be/a10PynkTpw0>.
- The spot where the foal was tied down was the best and safest location for two reasons: 1) it was approximately 275 feet from the path that most of the horses had taken to enter the trap the foal was tied on the opposite side of the wings from the guide horses; and 2) it was the nearest distance to a road where a trailer could be pulled.
- According to the BLM, COR and APHIS veterinarian, the foal was roped and tied down at approximately 12:30 p.m. outside the wings to protect it from two bands of horses coming into the trap. The decision was made to tie the weak foal outside of the path of the approaching bands of horses rather than stopping the gather to collect the foal to prevent additional running and stress on the oncoming horses.
- Due to the possibility there could be more foals in a similar weakened state, the contractors made it a practice the following day to bring a trailer out a distance from the trap and have riders on horseback prepared to assist weak foals, should they appear to be experiencing stress.
- Other foals are being watched as they show similar symptoms. The APHIS vet believes the condition of these foals is also malnutrition caused. The weak foals have been paired up with their mares, but the mares appear to be dry. A volunteer has agreed to bottle feed two foals and the gather contractor arranged for extra staff to monitor the foals in the holding corral. Two foals are also being cared for at the No. Nev. Correctional Center.